

**Abstract**

Cartridge-handling apparatus for a media storage system comprising a lift assembly having at least one guide track aligned along a first displacement path in the media storage system. A carriage having a transfer shaft aligned along a second displacement path in the media storage system. The transfer shaft operatively associated with the at least one guide track of the lift assembly for moving the carriage along the at least one guide track through the first displacement path. A picker slidably mounted on the carriage to the transfer shaft. The picker moving with the carriage through the first displacement path, and the picker moving on the transfer shaft through the second displacement path.